

## Message Text

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67

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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R 161510 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8826

INFO AMCONSUL MUNICH

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 5563

E. O. 11652: NA/ A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US

SUBJ: SOVIET MEDIA GINGERLY BREAKS ICE ON WATERGATE

1. LITERATURNAYA GAZETA ( LITGAZ) OF MAY 16 FEATURES FIRST DETAILED ACCOUNT OF WATERGATE AFFAIR PUBLISHED IN SOVIET MEDIA IN FORM OF BRIEF AND VERY LOW- KEY ARTICLE. INTRODUCTORY PARAGRAPH, WHICH REVEALS EXTREMELY SPARSE COVERAGE OF WATERGATE BY SOVIET MEDIA, REMINDS READERS THAT THEY ARE ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH THE WATERGATE AFFAIR FROM ARTICLE IN FEBRUARY 7 ISSUE OF LITGAZ WHICH MERELY CONSISTED OF STRIGHT TRANSLATION OF JAMES RESTON COLUMN. ONLY OTHER RECENT COVERAGE HAS CONSISTED OF CRYPTIC ANNOUNCEMENTS OF GRAY' S RESIGNATION AS FBI HEAD AND NEW CABINET APPOINTMENTS. CABINET APPOINTMENTS WERE REPORTED WITH NO MENTION OF ANY CONNECTION TO WATERGATE.

2. LITGAZ TREATS WATERGATE AS OF MINOR IMPORTANCE AND AVOIDS ANY SUGGESTION THAT PRESIDENT NIXON HIMSELF HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY THIS AFFAIR. THUS COMMITTEE TO RE- ELECT PRESIDENT IS TRANSLATED BY LITGAZ AS PRIMARY ELECTION COMMITTEE OF REPUBLICAN PARTY. ARTICLE RELATES IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER CHIEF EVENTS OF AFFAIR, CONFINING ITSELF TO ACTUAL ARRESTS, INDICTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS. PRESIDENT' S TV ADDRESS TO NATION

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ON WATERGATE IS REFERRED TO IN PASSING AS " A STATEMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THE RESIGNATION OF HALDEMANN AND ERLICHMAN," WHO ARE REFERRED TO AS " RESPONSIBLE MEMBERS OF THE WHITE HOUSE APPARATUS." PRESIDENT' S REMARKS ABOUT HALDEMAN AND ERLICHMAN IN HIS ADDRESS ARE QUOTED.

3. IN ADDITION TO THOSE ACTUALLY ARRESTED IN WATERGATE ITSELF, ARTICLE CONTINUES, AMERICAN PRESS EXPECT MITCHELL, STANS, DEAN, HALDEMAN, ERLICHMAN, MAGRUDER AND LA RUE TO BE INDICTED. RICHARDSON AND ERVIN INVESTIGATIONS RECEIVE BRIEF MENTION AT END OF ARTICLE.

4. COMMENT: PROPAGANDISTS MAY HAVE FELT THEY MUST PUBLISH OR LOSE CREDIBILITY. NOVESTI CORRESPONDENT COMMENTED CRITICALLY LAST WEEK TO POL COUNSELOR ABOUT SILENCE OF SOVIET PRESS ON ISSUE RECEIVING WORLD- WIDE ATTENTION . CHOICE OF LITGAZ, A PAPER DIRECTED TO SOVIET INTELLECTUALS, RATHER THAN PRAVDA OR IZVESTIYA FURTHER DEMONSTRATES LOW KEY AND RELUCTANCE WITH WHICH SOVIETS REPORTING ON WATERGATE AT TIME WHEN THEY WISH TO PLAY UP IMPORTANCE OF FORTHCOMING SUMMIT MEETING IN WASHINGTON.

DUBS

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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**To:** EUR  
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